

1 the local Baltimore Sun, we can see that there's a
2 growing dependency from the state. These ads are paid
3 for with state dollars, taxpayer dollars.

4 The trend is that we want to see this
5 reversed at the state level and the local level where
6 government should be a protector and not a predator.

7 And I thank you all for being involved
8 with us in this issue.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Hollingsworth.

11 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you very much.

12 I'm Pierre Hollingsworth of the NAACP of
13 Atlantic City and also a former city commissioner when
14 gaming was passed in the City of Atlantic City.

15 This year represents 21 years since the
16 passage of gaming in Atlantic City. Many of the
17 residents of Horace Bryant, Jr. Drive, the West Side,
18 Monroe, Venice Park, this same lagoon area supported
19 and voted for gaming for the job opportunities and
20 economic development that was presented.

21 Organizations throughout this threatened
22 area have adjusted to the traffic down Ohio Avenue,

1 construction of the Convention Center, and increased
2 fumes from Route 30, which is Absecon Boulevard
3 traffic.

4 Now, because environmental laws have given
5 greater protection to birds and wetlands and due to
6 the fear of lawsuits by environmental groups, New
7 Jersey state government and an unlicensed casino who
8 left town years ago because of strict government
9 regulations have turned to abandoning their support of
10 this neighborhood and to uproot families from their
11 homes.

12 What has changed since the unanimous no
13 vote to the tunnel that was supported by the mayor and
14 all of city council? Many were wine and dined in Las
15 Vegas. They returned to Atlantic City and changed
16 their vote.

17 Clearly, it appears that an effort has
18 started to buy out families and intimidate those who
19 oppose this program by labeling them as people who are
20 opposed to jobs and economic development and growth.

21 What is actually being said is that a
22 choice must be made between wetlands and birds first

1 and people and their families and neighborhoods last.
2 Do we have laws on the books that say all other plans
3 must be exhausted, including moving families, before
4 the wetlands or birds can be disturbed? It appears
5 that this is the easy way to move out the black
6 community.

7 Just as roadways throughout the 1960s
8 trampled through urban communities, state government
9 and the mirage is saying, "Let's continue to do that.
10 Why change?" It takes more than effort to be
11 sensitive.

12 This connector tunnel, cut-and-cover
13 project, or whatever you want to call it, will destroy
14 a very stable residential community.

15 The population of Atlantic City has been
16 reduced to 35,000, and it used to be 48,000 in 1976,
17 and for many years there have always been discussions
18 to build across the wetlands, but now because Steve
19 Wynn said that he would not build in Atlantic City
20 unless he has a road to his casino, government puppets
21 have changed their mind.

22 This is not about nine homes. It is about

1 a community.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. McCabe.

4 MR. McCABE: Yes, thank you, distinguished
5 members of the Commission.

6 My name is Christopher McCabe, and I've
7 represented Maryland's 14th Senate District since
8 1991. While I have been involved in a variety of
9 issues impacting my state since entering public
10 service, the issue of expanded gambling has commanded
11 my greatest focus over the past three years.

12 In 1995, in response to what I perceived
13 was a concerted effort by out-of-state interests to
14 try to legalize casinos in Maryland, I co-founded
15 Marylanders Against Casinos, a grassroots business and
16 citizen coalition opposed to this legalization.

17 Aside from gambling that is authorized on
18 Indian lands, the debate over gambling, how much, what
19 kind, where, is largely decided by elected
20 legislators in state capitals across America. In
21 1995, the Maryland General Assembly created a task
22 force similar in scope to the National Gambling Impact